

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IOE-00

INT-05 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-07 CU-04

HEW-06 /161 W

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P 111645Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3977

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1850

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS INTERIOR FOR DOTA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, AQ

SUBJECT: SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES OF COMMITTEE OF
24 MEETING,
JUNE 9.

1. ON JUNE 9 THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES OF
THE COMMITTEE OF 24 MET ON AMERICAN SAMOA. DEBATE BEGAN
WITH US STATEMENT TO SUBCOMMITTEE. IN SPEECH US INVITED
QUESTIONS. THERE WERE THREE QUESTIONS POSED:

(A) IRAQ ASKED REASONS WHY VOTERS, THREE TIMES IN
THE PERIOD 1972-1975, HAD TURNED DOWN ISSUE OF ELECTING
A GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR THROUGH POPULAR
ELECTIONS.

(B) IVORY COAST (KOUAME) REFERRED TO WORKING PAPER
ON AMERICAN SAMOA PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT (A/AC.109/L1166,
PARAGRAPHS 10 AND 11) AND ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF
ELECTED GOVERNOR COMMISSIONS REPORT REFERRED TO IN
PARAGRAPH 11. (WORKING PAPER SAID, "REPORT OF COMMISSION
WAS TO HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 1977".)

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(C) KOUAME NEXT REFERRED TO PARAGRAPHS 12
AND 13 OF THE SECRETARIAT WORKING PAPER. HE ASKED FOR
CLARIFICATION OF FOLLOWING POINTS:

(I) PARAGRAPH 12 OF SECRETARIAT WORKING
PAPER STATES IN PART "THE ELECTED GOVERNOR WOULD
REMAIN UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE
INTERIOR, WHO, IN TURN, WOULD CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE

TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA." KOUAME ASKED WHAT WILL BE THE PRECISE RELATIONSHIP OF THE ELECTED GOVERNOR TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE.

(II) PARAGRAPH 13 OF SECRETARIAT WORKING

PAPER STATES: "ACCORDING TO AN EDITORIAL IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY OF JANUARY 1977, AN ELECTED GOVERNOR ACT WOULD BE A PRELIMINARY STEP TO THE ADOPTION OF AN ORGANIC ACT FOR AMERICAN SAMOA WHICH WOULD OFFICIALLY MAKE AMERICAN SAMOA A UNITED STATES TERRITORY WITH A CONSTITUTION FORMALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS RATHER THAN BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, AS AT PRESENT". KOUAME ASKED HOW WILL THE STATES OF AMERICAN SAMOA AS A "TERRITORY" ACTUALLY CHANGE FOLLOWING THE PASSAGE OF AN ELECTED GOVERNOR ACT?

2. US SAID RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WOULD, IF POSSIBLE, BE PRESENTED AT THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING ON AMERICAN SAMOA SCHEDULED FOR 3 P.M. , JUNE 13.

3. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONSES TO ABOVE QUESTIONS.

4. TEXT OF US STATEMENT TO SUBCOMMITTEE FOLLOWS:
QUOTE MR. CHAIRMAN, THANK YOU AND MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR INVITING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S ANNUAL DISCUSSION OF DEVELOPMENTS IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE SECRETARIAT HAS PREPARED
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FOR THE USE OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE A VERY INTENSIVE AND INFORMATIVE WORKING PAPER. ADDITIONALLY, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL REPORT IS NOT AVAILABLE AS YET FROM THE PRINTERS, WE WERE ABLE TO FURNISH A PROOF COPY FOR SECRETARIAT USE. COPIES OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S REPORT ALSO SHORTLY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE. I WILL BE MOST PLEASED TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE MAY HAVE ON AMERICAN SAMOA.

CONSTITUTIONAL GROWTH AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WERE IN THE FOREFRONT THIS PAST YEAR FOR AMERICAN SAMOA. AS MEMBERS OF THIS SUB-COMMITTEE KNOW, THREE TIMES IN THE PERIOD FROM 1972-1975, BY REFERENDUM THE VOTERS TURNED DOWN THE ISSUE OF ELECTING A GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR THROUGH POPULAR ELECTION.

SINCE THERE HAS BEEN PROTESTATIONS THAT THESE REFER-
ENDA HAD CONTAINED TO MANY SIDE ISSUES, THUS CONFUSING

THE VOTERS, AND THAT THE REFERENDA HAD BEEN IMPROPERLY CONDUCTED, IN 1976 THE LEGISLATURE OF AMERICAN SAMOA ONCE AGAIN REQUESTED THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CALL ANOTHER SPECIAL REFERENDUM ON THIS ISSUE. THE SECRETARY CONSENTED AND, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN HIM BY PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER, ESTABLISHED THE DATED OF AUGUST 31, 1976, FOR THIS SPECIAL ELECTION. IN ORDER TO AVOID THE CRITICISMS LEVELED AGAINST EARLIER REFERENDA, THE SECRETARY DIRECTED THAT ONLY ONE QUESTION SHOULD BE ON THE BALLOT, THAT OF THE POPULAR ELECTION OF THE GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR. ADDITIONALLY, IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT THE SPECIAL REFERENDUM WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN A COMPLETELY IMPARTIAL MANNER, THE SECRETARY APPOINTED AN INDEPENDENT ELECTION COMMISSIONER FROM OUTSIDE AMERICAN SAMOA TO SUPERVISE THE SPECIAL ELECTION. THE INDEPENDENT SPECIAL ELECTION COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF ALSO WERE CHARGED WITH THE OVERALL SUPERVISION OF A POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM TO INSURE THAT ALL VOTERS FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE ISSUE BEFORE THEM. SPECIAL EFFORT ALSO WAS MADE ON GETTING ELIGIBLE VOTERS TO REGISTER AND TO VOTE IN THE AUGUST 31, 1976, SPECIAL ELECTION.

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3978

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 1850

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS INTERIOR FOR DOTA

BY A MAJORITY OF 70 PERCENT, THE VOTERS OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN THE AUGUST 31, 1976, REFERENDUM VOTED IN FAVOR OF A ELECTED GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR. THE SECRETARY, IN ANNOUNCING THE SPECIAL REFERENDUM HAD INDICATED THAT IF THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, IMMEDIATE STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO DEVELOP THE OFFICIAL PROCEDURES FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF AN ELECTIVE GOVERNOR UNDER THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION OF AMERICAN SAMOA. SINCE THE LEGISLATURE OF AMERICAN SAMOA, THE FONO MUST BE INVOLVED IN ANY CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, THE SECRETARY IMMEDIATELY ASKED THE FONO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ELECTIVE GOVERNOR FRAMEWORK.

AN ELECTIVE GOVERNOR ADVISORY COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED, MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF AMERICAN SAMOA, THE DISTRICT GOVERNORZS OF AMERICAN SAMOA, AND THE LEGISLATURE. THIS COMMISSION MET IN NOVEMBER OF 1976 AND IN FEBRUARY 1977 IN AMERICAN SAMOA AND PREPARED PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS. THE LEGISLATURE HAD JUST CONCLUDED ITS CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN SPECIAL ACTIONS, INCLUDING CANDIDATE UNCLASSIFIED

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QUALIFICATIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE, AND SALARY. WE EXPECT THE EXECUTIVE TO TAKE FINAL ACTION WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES WILL ALSO BE ADDRESSED IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

THE TARGET DATE FOR HOLDING THE FIRST GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION HAS BEEN SET BY THE LEGISLATURE FOR NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR. IF THE REMAINING LEGAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTION OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,

CAN BE RESOLVED IN TIME TO ALLOW FOR A PROPER PERIOD FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATES TO CAMPAIGN, THE PROJECTED TARGET OF NOVEMBER 1977, CAN BE MET. OTHERWISE, A 1978 ELECTION WILL BE NECESSARY. WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT ALL WILL GO WELL AND THAT 1978 SHOULD SEE THE INSTALLATION OF THE FIRST POPULARLY ELECTED GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

I NOW TURN TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE TERRITORY. THE SUB-COMMITTEE IS WELL AWARE OF THE ECONOMIC RECESSION WHICH BEGAN IN LATER 1974 IN AMERICAN SAMOA AND WHICH WAS EACERBATED BY A SERIES OF LOCAL DISASTERS, I.E., THE WORST DROUGHT IN TWENTY YEARS, CONSTANT WATER AND POWER FAILURES, DISASTROUS TUNA CATCHES FOR SEVERAL SEASONS, AND A DEVASTATING FIRE.

LOCAL TAX REVENUES FELL DRASTICALLY, STAGNATING THE LOCAL

ECONOMY AND BRINGING LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO THE EDGE OF BANKRUPTCY. IT WAS NECESSARY TO SEEK SPECIAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FROM THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO BOLSTER THE LOCAL ECONOMY. THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS RESPONDED SYMPATHETICALLY AND PROMPTLY TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT OF AMERICAN SAMOA TO COVER DEFICITS IN BOTH THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND OPERATIONS SPHERES OF THE BUDGET.

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE ECONOMY IN AMERICAN SAMOA NOW IS ON AN UPWARD CLIMB AND INCREASED LOCAL TAX REVENUE
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IS ANTICIPATED FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. THE GOVERNMENT OF AMERICAN SAMOA, IN COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE INVESTMENT, AND WITHIN THE LIMITS OF AVAILABLE AND POTENTIAL RESOURCES, IS ATTEMPTING TO DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMY OF AMERICAN SAMOA SINCE THE LOCAL ECONOMY OF THE TERRITORY STILL TO A MAJOR EXTENT EXISTS ON ONE ECONOMIC BASE, THAT OF THE TUNA FISHING AND CANNERY BUSINESS. SUCH ATTEMPTS CENTER AROUND A NEW INDUSTRIAL PARK, A NEW DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE BY THE MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THE INCREASED FINANCIAL GRANTS FROM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AS WELL AS LIBERAL GRANTS FROM SPECIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL PROGRAMS HAVE ENABLED THE GOVERNMENT OF AMERICAN SAMOA TO MOVE WITH WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, WITH NEW POWER PLANT DEVELOPMENT, ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPANSION, AIRPORT EXPANSION AND HOTEL IMPROVEMENTS, ALL OF WHICH ARE SORELY NEEDED IF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN AMERICAN SAMOA IS TO TAKE PLACE AND BE SUSTAINED.

EDUCATION IN AMERICAN SAMOA IS AVAILABLE FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL AND THEREAFTER FROM THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AMERICAN SAMOA AND THE TAFUNA VOCATIONAL SKILLS CENTER. THE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM PREVIOUSLY ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE. BILINGUAL EDUCATION IS BEING EMPHASIZED IN THE SCHOOLS; THAT IS, EDUCATION IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SAMOAN. CURRENTLY, THERE IS LITTLE EDUCATIONAL TV AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL; HOWEVER ENTV IS STILL UTILIZED AS ONE OF THE SEVERAL METHODS OF INSTRUCTION ON THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL. MOST SUCCESS WITH ETV HAS BEEN WITH ORAL ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES, SCIENCE AND MATH AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL. THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS NOW BECOMING A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION THAT WILL SPECIALIZE IN TEACHER TRAINING.

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I HOPE, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THESE COMMENTS HAVE BEEN USEFUL, AS IN THE PAST, I WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR AMPLIFICATION ON ANY QUESTIONS MEMBERS OF THIS SUB-COMMITTEE HAVE. UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2182993
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES OF COMMITTEE OF 24 MEETING, JUNE 9.
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, PGOV, AQ, US, UN, C-24
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bb454f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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